
IRON RANGE CONSULTING & SERVICES INC.

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Frank Foster, Chair
Natural Resources, Tourism, and Recreation Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Representative Foster:

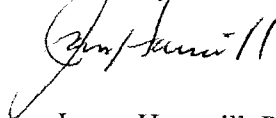
I am writing in support of efforts to list the gray wolf as a game animal in Michigan. I am strongly in favor of managing gray wolves sustainably in Michigan at the level that is within the constraints of public tolerance and ecosystem health.

Once nearly extirpated, wolves have made a remarkable natural recovery in Michigan. Wolves have exceeded population goals set by both Federal and Michigan State Recovery Plans. Wolf recovery was once strongly supported by the public. However this support has steadily eroded as wolf populations have grown beyond recovery goals with no prospect of effective wolf population control imminent. Depredation of pets and livestock by wolves is a serious issue which is escalating and can most effectively be addressed by population control.

Wolves should be managed using the best science available, and following the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Management. Establishing a hunting/trapping season for wolves would help greatly to control wolf numbers and is the most efficient method of population control known. Continued work by USDA Wildlife Services will also be necessary to handle specific animal removals.

Historically, Michigan was a national leader in wildlife science. In recent years, however, critical wildlife decisions have suffered in the arena of political decision making and Michigan's reputation for leadership has waned. This is an opportunity to once again confirm that Michigan believes in science-based wildlife management and that we are capable of leading on important wildlife issues here in the Midwest.

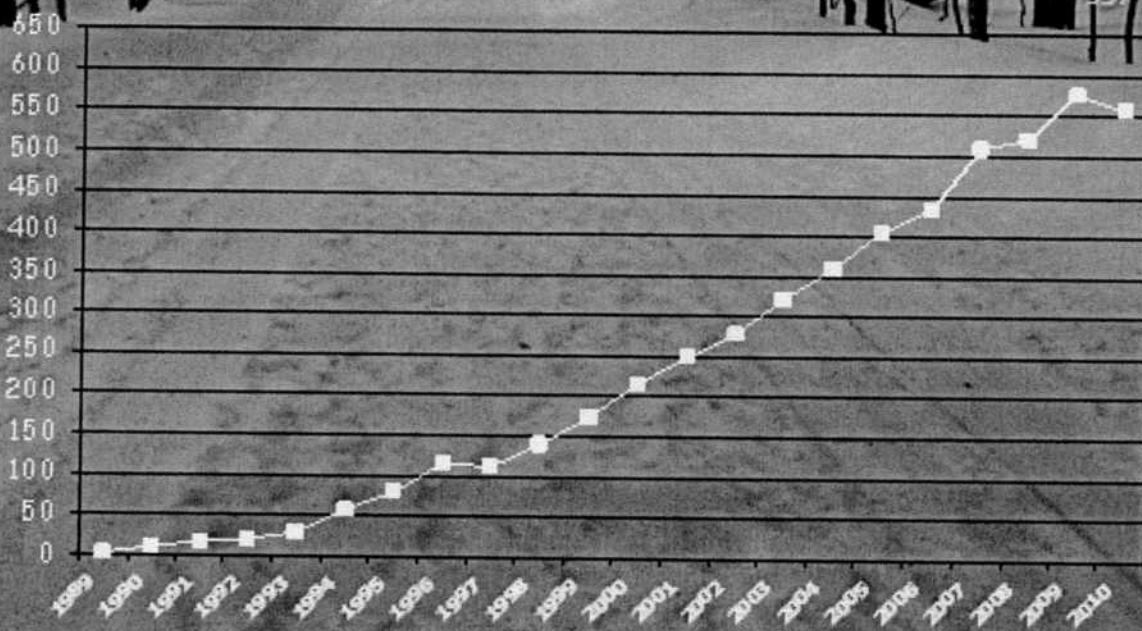
Sincerely,



James Hammill, President
Iron Range Consulting & Services Inc

Minimum Winter Population Estimates

No. of Wolves



James H. Hammill
Brief Bio.

Name: James H. Hammill

Born: December 9, 1948 in Norway, Michigan

Education: Norway High School; graduated 1967
Adrian College; Biology, Ecology Major; graduated 1971
Michigan State University; Post-graduate work 1971-1972

Work Experience:

St. Vincent Log Homes, Norway; 1966-67
USDA Soil Conservation Service; 1968-71
Self employed, logging; 1968-71
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources; 1972-2002
President, Iron Range Consulting & Services Inc.; 2002-present

From 1966 to 1971 I worked for organizations that would provide valuable work experience for my eventual goal of working in the wildlife field. I was hired in 1972 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and served as a wildlife biologist in Gladwin, and West UP Wildlife Supervisor from 1977-2002. Some examples of work included:

- Deer range improvement on state lands in the western UP.
- Grouse and woodcock habitat improvement on state lands in the western UP.
- Kept track of eagle and osprey populations in the west half of the U.P. by conducting aerial surveys to monitor nesting and reproduction.
- Conducted and coordinated Michigan's first Common Loon survey (1983).
- Authored many scientific reports on Michigan's game and non-game wildlife.
- Member of Michigan DNR Moose Working Group.
- Directly involved with moose monitoring and research efforts from the time of translocation and release of moose (1985 & 1987), until my retirement in 2002.
- Responsible for the State of Michigan's wolf program, 1989-2002.
- Trained trappers/trackers and coordinated Michigan wolf census (1989-2002).
- Gave public presentations on wolf biology and management to approximately 2,000 persons/year from 1989 to 2002.
- Trapped, radio-collared, and monitored gray wolves in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, 1994-2002.
- Authored numerous scientific and popular articles on wolves and wolf biology.
- Member of the State of Michigan Wolf Recovery Team.
- Member of the Federal Wolf Recovery Team.
- Authored portions of the Michigan Wolf Recovery Plan.

My wife, Julie, and I started an S Corporation, Iron Range Consulting and Services Inc. in 2002, which we still operate today (www.ironrangeconsulting.com). Our focus is to provide land management and planning assistance to private landowners. We also maintain Michigan Real Estate Salesperson licenses through Great Lakes and Land Real Estate Company, L'Anse, Michigan, and are Cabela's real estate affiliates.

Since retiring from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2002, I have continued to be involved in wolf recovery efforts:

- Reviewed Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming state wolf recovery and management plans for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Sat on numerous panels on wolf management and gave presentations on wolf management in the U.S., most recently at the January 2011 Safari Club International Convention in Reno, NV.
- Worked under contract with the National Wildlife Federation to determine presence of wolves in Maine (2003).
- Former member of the Board of Directors, International Wolf Center, Ely, Minnesota (2005-2010).

Groups/Organizations/Community:

- Michigan Master Logger Board Member
- Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF), Chair, North American Programs
- Northwoods Chapter Safari Club International, President
- Menominee Range Chapter, Ruffed Grouse Society, Past President
- The Wildlife Society, Past State President
- Numerous publications in scientific and popular literature focusing on wildlife and land management issues